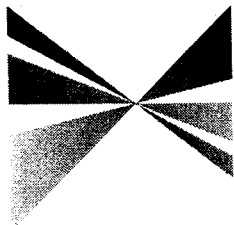


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of  
GOVERNMENTS**

**Main Office**

818 West Seventh Street

12th Floor

Los Angeles, California

90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

f (213) 236-1825

[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)

**Officers:** President: Councilmember Bev Perry, Brea • First Vice President: Councilmember Ron Roberts, Temecula • Second Vice President: Supervisor Hank Kuiper, Imperial County • Past President: Councilmember Ronald Bates, Los Alamitos

**Imperial County:** Hank Kuiper, Imperial County • Jo Shields, Brawley

**Los Angeles County:** Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Los Angeles County • Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County • Harry Baldwin, San Gabriel • Paul Bowlen, Cerritos • Tony Cardenas, Los Angeles • Margaret Clark, Rosemead • Gene Daniels, Paramount • Mike Dispenza, Palmdale • Judy Dunlap, Inglewood • Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles • Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles • Frank Gurulé, Cudahy • James Hahn, Los Angeles • Janice Hahn, Los Angeles • Isadore Hall, Compton • Sandra Jacobs, El Segundo • Tom LaBonge, Los Angeles • Bonnie Lowenthal, Long Beach • Martin Ludlow, Los Angeles • Keith McCarthy, Downey • Llewellyn Miller, Claremont • Cindy Miskowski, Los Angeles • Paul Nowatka, Torrance • Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica • Alex Padilla, Los Angeles • Bernard Parks, Los Angeles • Jan Perry, Los Angeles • Beatrice Proo, Pico Rivera • Ed Reyes, Los Angeles • Greig Smith, Los Angeles • Dick Stanford, Azusa • Tom Sykes, Walnut • Paul Talbot, Alhambra • Sidney Tyler, Pasadena • Tonia Reyes Uranga, Long Beach • Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles • Dennis Washburn, Calabasas • Jack Weiss, Los Angeles • Bob Yousefian, Glendale • Dennis Zine, Los Angeles

**Orange County:** Chris Norby, Orange County • Ronald Bates, Los Alamitos • Lou Bone, Tustin • Art Brown, Buena Park • Richard Chavez, Anaheim • Debbie Cook, Huntington Beach • Cathryn DeYoung, Laguna Niguel • Richard Dixon, Lake Forest • Alta Duke, La Palma • Bev Perry, Brea • Tod Ridgeway, Newport Beach

**Riverside County:** Marion Ashley, Riverside County • Ron Loveridge, Riverside • Greg Pettis, Cathedral City • Ron Roberts, Temecula

**San Bernardino County:** Paul Biane, San Bernardino County • Bill Alexander, Rancho Cucamonga • Edward Burgnon, Town of Apple Valley • Lawrence Dale, Barstow • Lee Ann Garcia, Grand Terrace • Susan Longville, San Bernardino • Gary Ovitt, Ontario • Deborah Robertson, Rialto

**Ventura County:** Judy Mikels, Ventura County • Glen Becerra, Simi Valley • Carl Morehouse, San Buenaventura • Toni Young, Port Hueneme

**Orange County Transportation Authority:** Charles Smith, Orange County

**Riverside County Transportation Commission:** Robin Lowe, Hemet

**Ventura County Transportation Commission:** Bill Davis, Simi Valley

**MEETING OF THE**

**WATER POLICY TASK FORCE**

**Thursday, April 8, 2004  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**SCAG Offices**

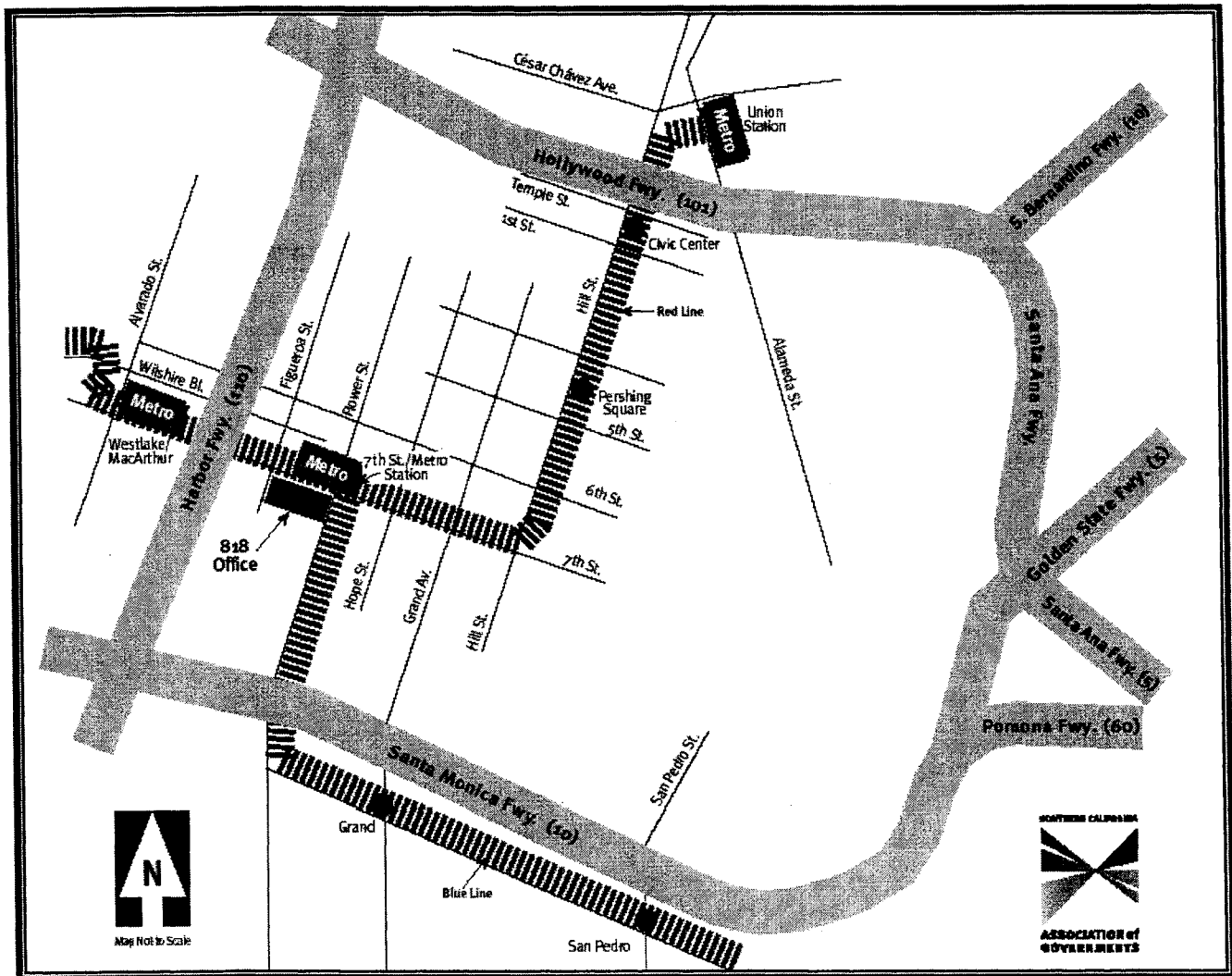
**818 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside B Conference Room  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
213. 236.1800**

**Agenda & Map Enclosed**

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Dan Griset at 213.236.1895 or [griset@scag.ca.gov](mailto:griset@scag.ca.gov).

SCAG, in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. If you require such assistance, please contact SCAG at (213) 236-1868 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable SCAG to make reasonable arrangements. To request documents related to this document in an alternative format, please contact (213) 236-1868.

## How to get to the Southern California Association of Governments



### To Get to the 818 Building

- Harbor Freeway (110) Exit on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, turn right on Flower.

### By Transit...

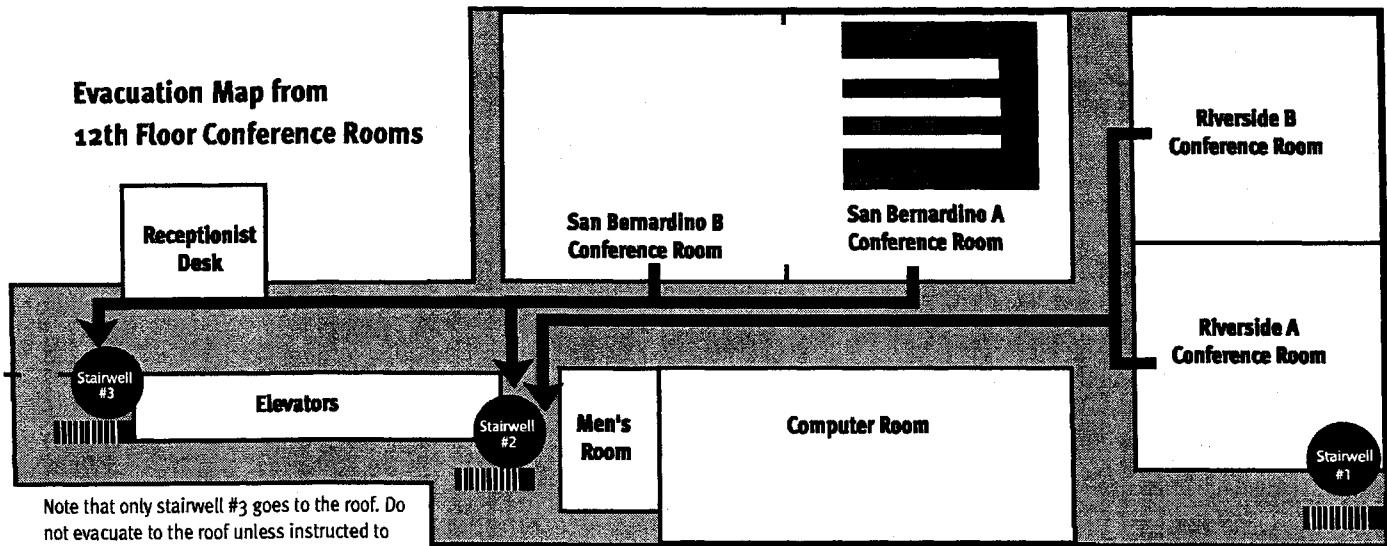
- SCAG is accessible by all Metrolink Service to Union Station. Transfer to the Metro Red Line (free transfer with Metrolink ticket) and get off at 7<sup>th</sup> and Metro Station. Metro Line Service to SCAG is also available from Alvarado Station.
- SCAG is accessible by the Blue Line. Get off at 7<sup>th</sup> and Metro Station.
- SCAG is served directly by DASH Routes A and B. Bus Service via MTA, Foothill, Santa Monica, Orange County is available to downtown. Call 1-800-COMMUTE for details.

### SCAG Main Office:

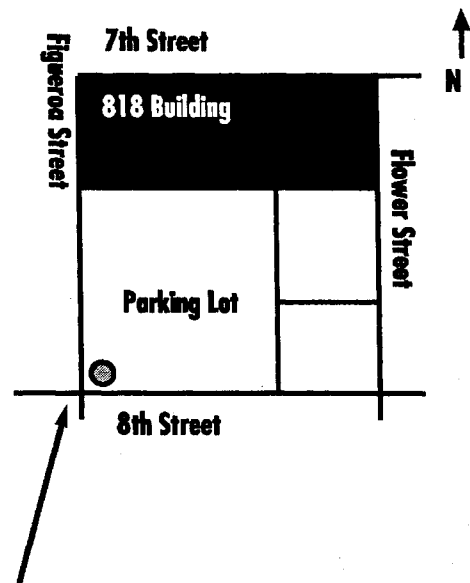
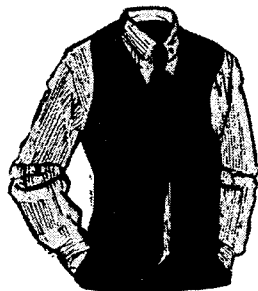
818 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017-3435 (213) 236-1800 fax: (213) 236-1825

<http://www.scag.ca.gov>

# Emergency Evacuation Procedures:



- 1) SCAG offices will always totally evacuate when an alarm sounds, even if it is thought to be a false alarm.
- 2) The evacuation stairwells are shown above.
- 3) Take the stairs to the ground floor. Upon exiting the building walk to the corner of 8th and Figueroa and meet at the Northeast corner. See dot in the map to the right. Do not leave the area without making contact with a floor warden, who will be wearing an orange vest.
- 4) SCAG safety officers will be wearing an orange vest during an emergency. Please follow their instructions.



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS**

**AGENDA**  
**WATER POLICY TASK FORCE**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**April 8, 2004**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**SCAG Offices: Riverside B Meeting Room**

**Page #**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or agenda items not on the agenda, but within the purview of this committee, must notify the Secretary and fill out a speaker's card prior to speaking. Comments will be limited to three minutes. The Chair may limit the total time for comments.

**3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approve the summary minutes of the February 12, 2004 meeting. The minutes will be posted on the Task Force website prior to the meeting, as well as distributed at the meeting.

**4.0 PRESENTATION ITEMS FOR THE TASK FORCE**

**4.1 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission**

**3**

Scott Valor, Director of Government Affairs, will brief the Task Force on recent organizational developments that have created the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (formerly known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project). The Commission is charged with carrying out its portion of the National Estuary Program, a program based in USEPA to address problems and opportunities in estuarine environments.

**4.2 Update on State Programs for Funding of Watershed Projects**

**5**

Rick Harter, Executive Director of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, will update the Task Force on the current status of programs created by recent voter-approved propositions that were to fund watershed and other environmentally-related projects with state issued bonds.

**4.3 Water 2025: A Report of the US Interior Department on Water Crisis and Conflict in the West 6**

William Steele, Area Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation, will review the findings and recommendations of Water 2025, a wide-ranging report on water issues in the West prepared by the U.S. Interior Department. The Report argues for consideration of a mix of principles, realities and tools in the quest to avoid future water conflicts and facilitate needed water supplies in arid landscapes where rapid population growth is expected.

**4.4 Bringing Balance to CALFED: Implementing the Delta Improvements Package 8**

Timothy H. Quinn, Vice President of State Water Project Resources for the Metropolitan Water District, will provide the Task Force with an update on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, as well as the recently proposed Delta Improvements Package. This Package is an important set of proposed actions that aim to bring CALFED implementation measures into better balance among the Program stakeholders. This Package, sometimes referred to as the Napa Agreement, was developed in a series of stakeholder meetings in July 2003 at Napa.

**4.5 Funding for the Study of Water Quality and other Watershed Impacts of Proposed Regional Transportation Plan Projects 11**

Staff will review the work to be done under an agreement funded by the Caltrans Stormwater Program.

**5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT**

**6.0 STAFF REPORT**

**7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING**

**8.0 COMMENT PERIOD**

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

## ***MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE***

***April 8, 2004***

**TO:** *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

**FROM:** *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, [griset@scag.ca.gov](mailto:griset@scag.ca.gov)*

**SUBJECT:** *Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive for future policy consideration.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The State of California and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project (SMBRP) as a National Estuary Program in December 1988. The Project was formed to develop a plan that would ensure the long-term health of the 266 square mile Bay and its 400 square mile watershed, located in the second most populous region in the United States. That plan, known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan, got State and Federal approval in 1995. Since then the SMBRP's primary mission has been to facilitate and oversee the implementation of the Plan.

On January 1st, 2003, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project formally became an independent state organization and is now known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC). This transformation came about as the result of the passage of California State Senate Bill 1381, authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl, co-authored by Assembly Member Fran Pavley, and signed by Governor Gray Davis on September 15th, 2002.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission continues the mission of the Bay Restoration Project and the collaborative approach of the National Estuary Program but with a greater ability to accelerate the pace and effectiveness of Bay restoration efforts. The Commission will monitor, assess, coordinate and advise the activities of state programs and oversee funding that affects the beneficial uses, restoration and enhancement of Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds.

The SMBRC is a non-regulatory, locally-based state organization whose functions and governance are prescribed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the California Resources Agency and the Chair of the Bay Watershed Council.

The Commission membership includes federal, state and local public agency officials and employees and representatives of other stakeholder interests. The Commission seeks to work with a consensus

approach as it sets priorities, defines projects and develops funding. One tool under current development to aid in this effort is the creation of a Joint Powers Authority to be known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority. This Authority will include the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. This state-recognized, but wholly local entity, will allow the Commission to more actively coordinate water quality and habitat restoration projects with local governments. This local partnership approach will take advantage of increased funding flexibility and improve on current circumstances where state-awarded money is subject to the substantial delays and frequent uncertainties.

***MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE***

***April 8, 2004***

**TO:** *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

**FROM:** *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, [griset@scag.ca.gov](mailto:griset@scag.ca.gov)*

**SUBJECT:** *Impacts of the State Budget Crisis on Adopted Water Bond Resources*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Direct staff to continue to efforts to secure agency participation in and funding for inter-governmental watershed projects and initiatives, including those for improved information sharing and GIS presentation resources.

**BACKGROUND:**

When time ran short at the February meeting the Task Force asked to have this topic brought back at the April meeting for full consideration.

This topic has importance because of the impacts of the state budget crisis on grant funding of water quality and other projects under the CALFED Watershed and other voter-approved bond programs.

Though the public has approved a number of bond measures that support new initiatives in watershed planning, it is not clear that these approvals will result in actual funding of new efforts. Projects may be selected for funding but remain unfunded until future fiscal conditions improve. The briefing will update the Task Force on the current outlook for funding of various watershed initiatives around the region.

By way of information, a grant application was recently submitted by SCAG for consideration under one of these CALFED programs. This submission was not successful. The proposal, in partnership with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, was intended to launch an innovative information-sharing project in which watershed agencies and stakeholders would be able to find and share information needed for targeting water quality problems and developing integrated environmental solutions.



## ***MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE***

***April 8, 2004***

**TO:** *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

**FROM:** *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, [griset@scag.ca.gov](mailto:griset@scag.ca.gov)*

**SUBJECT:** *Water 2025: A Report of the US Interior Department on Water Crisis and Conflict in the West*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive for future policy consideration.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Last year the Department of Interior released a report, Water 2025: Preventing Crises and Conflict in the West, detailing the federal government's concerns about the potential for major water problems in the western United States. The basis for these concerns includes the explosive population growth in western urban areas, the emerging need for water for environmental and recreational uses, the national importance of the domestic production of food and fiber from western farms and ranches, frequent water shortages in the West, aging water infrastructure in the West and the difficulties of allocating water shortages during crisis conditions.

With these realities the report concluded that in some areas of the West existing water supplies are--or will be--inadequate to meet the water demands of urban areas, farms and the environment even under normal water supply conditions. Because of these expectations, the federal government has proposed that local communities and stakeholders need to take a lead role in setting plans and priorities as a way of assisting the federal government in its allocation of scarce dollars budgeted for water resources programs. The report offers a framework within which these local initiatives might be developed.

Water 2025 the report affirmed the following six principles:

1. Recognize and respect state, tribal and federal water rights, contracts and interstate compacts or decrees of the U.S. Supreme Court that allocate the right to use water;
2. Maintain and modernize existing water facilities so they will continue to provide water and power;
3. Enhance water conservation, use efficiency, and resource monitoring to allow existing water supplies to be used more effectively;
4. Use collaborative approaches and market based transfers to minimize conflicts;
5. Improve water treatment technology, such as desalination, to help increase water supply; and,
6. Existing water supply infrastructure can provide additional benefits for existing and emerging

needs for water.

It proposed four key tools: Conservation, efficiency and markets, collaboration, improved technology, and removal of institutional barriers and promotion of interagency cooperation.

In the report's forecast the levels for future risk of conflict in the West, southern California is indentified as an area with "substantial" risk of conflict and crisis. In matters affecting the Sacramento Delta (the focus of CALFED discussed in the next agenda item), that area is rated even higher in risk (with the classification of "highly likely").

These factors make a review of this report very timely for the Task Force and for others interested in the future of water resources within the SCAG region.

A copy of the full report is available at <http://www.doi.gov/water2025/Water2025.pdf>.

## ***MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE***

***April 8, 2004***

**TO:** *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

**FROM:** *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

**SUBJECT:** *Bringing Balance to CALFED: Implementing the Delta Improvements Package*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend that the Energy and Environment Committee and the Regional Council support the full and timely implementation of the 2004 Delta Improvements Package and urge all participating agencies (including the federal government) to authorize and fund the measures required to maintain operational balance in the CALFED Program.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program began in 1995 to deal with a wide array of water issues and unfavorable trends affecting California's water future. The Bay-Delta area is the largest estuary in North America and is the heart of California's statewide water system. The Delta provides drinking water for two-thirds of the state's population and irrigation water to more than seven million acres of farmland. In the years leading up to the start of the Program the Delta was adversely affected by ongoing deadlocks between competing water interests. These deadlocks exacerbated problems that took on statewide significance: fish species were disappearing, water quality was declining and water supplies were increasingly unreliable.

The Program's study process started in 1995 represented a new approach in which state and federal agencies, along with other key stakeholders, began a collaborative process to find and implement solutions for the Delta. In 2000 a comprehensive, 30-year Plan was completed for restoring the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem and improving the reliability and quality of the state's water supply. The Plan, finalized in the September 2000 CALFED Record of Decision (ROD), identified a number of projects including ecosystem restoration, surface and groundwater storage, and water quality improvements. With extensive input from stakeholders and the public, the ROD reflected a commitment to move ahead simultaneously on environmental, water supply and water quality objectives.

Since the release of the ROD, CALFED has begun implementation of local and regional projects at a cost of more than \$2 billion. These projects have been implemented under the guidance of the CALFED mandates to improve water supplies and water quality in California and to improve the ecological health of the Bay-Delta and its levee system.

The first seven years of the Program, known as “Stage 1”, had specific milestones for progress in ecosystem restoration, water quality, water supply and levee integrity. Ecosystem restoration has seen substantial progress with the investment of nearly \$700 million in Delta projects including efforts to improve fish and other wildlife populations. Certain regional water recycling and groundwater management efforts have made some progress as well. Other Stage 1 programs such as conveyance, water quality and surface storage have fallen behind Stage 1 goals, however.

These delays that created a troubling imbalance in Program implementation led to a series of stakeholder meetings in the summer of 2003 at Napa in which a “Delta Improvements Package” was formulated. This Package of programs and projects is a 2004 priority of CALFED and the California Bay-Delta Authority and includes:

1. Improving water supply reliability through a conveyance (water movement) program;
2. Restoring ecosystems through a long-term environmental water account; and
3. Enhancing water quality through various Delta and South Delta protection measures.

Together, the package elements would provide benefits for local Delta users and the broader community of statewide water users. As such it is the first major implementation package of statewide significance within the CALFED Program, moving a series of statewide water and environmental projects from planning to actual implementation.

*Improving Water Supply Reliability.* One of the key programs within CALFED is improved conveyance of water through the Delta. Water travels through the state's largest watershed, providing water for much of California, yet the Delta's conveyance ability is limited and outdated. The proposed Package calls for a conveyance program that entails three major changes to the conveyance system as follows: a) an increase State Water Project pumping through the Delta from the current level of 6,700 cfs (cubic feet per second) to 8,500 cfs; b) construction of a State Water Project/Central Valley Project Intertie; and c) implementation of a state/federal project integration plan.

The SWP/CVP Intertie: The State Water Project (SWP) and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) are separate water supply systems that essentially run parallel to each other up and down the state, and are operated by different government agencies, one state the other federal. The systems are vastly different from each other in their operating plans and regulatory paths. The SWP is storage poor and conveyance rich, while the CVP has plenty of storage capacity, but lacks the ability to move its water effectively. Further, the lack of coordination and cooperation between the state and federal projects has stalled progress in implementing CALFED water supply improvements. It's significant, then, that these agencies have agreed to support the SWP Aqueduct and CVP Delta-Mendota Canal Intertie (SWP/CVP Intertie). The Intertie is a short canal that will be built south of the Delta, where the SWP and CVP canals are in close proximity. The Intertie will allow the SWP and CVP to share water, so that both systems will work more effectively to deliver water to various areas of the state for a variety of uses at different times.

The SWP/CVP Integration Plan: The historic lack of coordination between the SWP and the CVP led to the negotiation between state and federal officials, along with other CALFED stakeholders, to negotiate an agreement at the meetings in Napa. Called the "Napa Proposal," the proposed SWP/CVP Integration Plan lays out the parameters to better operate and integrate the two projects, seeking to increase efficiencies, storage opportunities and water supply. The Napa Proposal provides a plan that

proposes to moderately increase water supplies for both projects. By better managing risk, it will allow higher water allocations earlier in the year, increasing certainty for both SWP and CVP contractors.

*Restoring Ecosystems.* One of the essential goals of the CALFED ROD is a resolution of the conflict between improving water supply reliability and providing environmental protections for fish and other wildlife living in the Delta ecosystem. CALFED established a new national model for conflict resolution with the creation of the innovative Environmental Water Account (EWA), which can purchase water and supply it to the conveyance system when fish protection required system pumps to be shut down. The pilot, four-year EWA, has been a success, but is currently scheduled to expire in 2004. The Delta Improvements Package will establish a long-term EWA that is to be proposed by federal and state agencies for public comment in 2004.

*Enhancing Water Quality.* Accompanying protections for Delta fish and wildlife, the proposed Delta Improvements Package also includes protections for local in-Delta and South Delta water users who would be impacted by the conveyance of more water through the Delta. These impacts would involve maintenance of water quality and water levels in the Delta. Accordingly, a series of regional meetings have been held with local Delta interests and Delta exporters to identify and agree upon a series of improvements and protective measures, including water quality and water level standards and the management of agricultural drainage. These measures are to be considered by state and federal agencies and, with approval, will be included in the list of conveyance projects as a part of the Delta Improvements Package.

The core principle of the ROD that created the common ground for stakeholder commitments to the Program is that all CALFED components are interrelated and interdependent. This involves a linkage between all projects in the Program. Investments and implementation in one Program area must be tied politically and programmatically to investments and implementation in other areas of the Program. This orientation to balance between the various priorities also emphasizes the role for the use of sound scientific investigations and research.

The governance of the CALFED program became formalized in January 2003 with the creation of a new state agency called the California Bay-Delta Authority. This Authority provides a permanent governance structure for the collaborative state/federal effort. The Authority will sunset on January 1, 2006, unless federal legislation has been enacted authorizing the participation of appropriate federal agencies in the CALFED Program.

Note: An attachment from the “California Water Future”, a statewide coalition supporting the Delta Improvements Package can be found at the back of this Agenda.

## **MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE**

*April 8, 2004*

**TO:** *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

**FROM:** *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, X895, [griset@scag.ca.gov](mailto:griset@scag.ca.gov)*

**SUBJECT:** *Funding for the Study of Water Quality and other Watershed Impacts of Proposed Regional Transportation Plan Projects*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

For Information Only

### **BACKGROUND:**

In early March the Caltrans Stormwater Program approved the funding of a \$200,000 Cooperative Agreement with SCAG to study and report on five topics involving the relationship between proposed Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) projects and stormwater runoff. Staff will have technical assistance from staff at the Bren School of Environmental Sciences at UC Santa Barbara.

The tasks identified in the Agreement include:

1. A presentation of hydrological and jurisdictional overlays for RTP projects;
2. A listing of watershed areas with proposed RTP projects where current or potential water impairments exist;
3. An assessment of potential stormwater pollution for those RTP projects with specific locations or alignments;
4. Identification of risk areas where stormwater runoff and debris flows may impact RTP projects;
5. A listing of watershed sites where coordinated treatment opportunities may exist for inter-governmental collaboration;
6. A presentation of a project summary report.

These tasks will be completed by May 1, 2005.

## **Attachment**

# California's Future

## **Delta Improvements Package A 2004 CalFed Priority**

### **CalFed...Balanced Progress Through Collaboration**

In 2000, a unique collaboration of interests – federal and state agencies, environmental organizations, water agencies, business groups, labor, agricultural industry and local communities – came together and put their historic differences aside to develop and agree upon a comprehensive, long-term plan for managing California's Bay-Delta, the largest estuary in North America and one of California's primary water sources. A bold, new structure needed to be created and implemented to resolve and manage the decades of conflict straining the fragile Bay-Delta system. The CalFed Bay-Delta Program emerged with clear mandates...improve water supplies and water quality in California and improve the ecological health of the Bay-Delta and its levee system.

CalFed's Record of Decision, published in August 2000, laid out a blueprint for success. The first seven years of implementation, known as "Stage 1", include specific milestones for progress in ecosystem restoration, water quality, water supply and levee integrity. The Ecosystem Restoration Program has seen significant progress with the investment of \$669 million in ecosystem projects and increasing Delta fishery populations. However, according to CalFed, the water supply, water quality, and levee programs in Stage 1 have been delayed for a variety of reasons.

The core principle of the Record of Decision, the principle that binds unilateral stakeholder support, is that all CalFed components are interrelated *and* interdependent. Politically and programmatically, each program's success is directly linked to the success of the other programs. Sound, science-based programs and projects to advance ecosystem restoration, water supply, water quality and levee integrity would all advance equally during Stage 1 and would likewise benefit from their counterparts' progress. Continued success during Stage 1 requires increased efforts on those programs that have been delayed.

### **Delta Improvements Package – A 2004 Priority for Calfed**

2004 will be a critical year as a much-needed three-part package of Delta improvements will advance to meet the milestones established by CalFed for Stage 1. The Delta Improvements Package includes:





#### Water Supply Reliability

- Conveyance Program



#### Ecosystem Restoration

- Long-Term Environmental Water Account



#### Water Quality

- Delta Protections

Collectively, the Delta Improvements Package will provide water supply reliability, ecosystem restoration and water quality benefits for local Delta users and the broader statewide community, and is the first major implementation package of statewide significance within the CalFed program...moving a series of statewide water and environmental projects from planning to actual implementation.

To date, CalFed has invested more than \$2 billion to meet its program goals, scattered over hundreds of local and regional projects. In 2004, projects with statewide benefit and significance will move towards implementation.

#### **Improving Water Supply Reliability – Conveyance Program**

The Bay-Delta receives water from the state's largest watershed and provides water for much of California. Maintaining a reliable, sufficient supply of water from the Bay-Delta is essential to the state's trillion-dollar economy and to the quality of life for more than two-thirds of the state's population.

One of the key programs within CalFed is improved conveyance of water through the Delta. CalFed's South Delta Improvements Program, a component within the overall Conveyance Program, will move water through the Delta in a way that increases water supply, improves water quality, improves ecosystem health and protects local Delta interests.

The Conveyance program is comprised of several key initiatives, which will embark on their respective environmental review processes in Spring 2004 and mark a significant step forward for CalFed.

- ✓ Increasing State Water Project ("SWP") pumping from the current level of 6,700 cfs to 8500 cfs
- ✓ Constructing the SWP Aqueduct and Central Valley Project ("CVP") Delta-Mendota Canal Intertie
- ✓ Implementing a SWP/CVP Integration Plan

The California Department of Water Resources has reported that the water supply and environmental benefits to be generated by the overall Conveyance Program will be

approximately 250,000 acre-feet per year. Of that amount, the department estimates approximately 60,000 acre-feet per year can be attributed directly to the SWP/CVP Integration Plan.

### **Conflicts Between Federal and State Projects Now Resolved**

Advancing CalFed's Conveyance Program and other water supply and water quality improvements requires interagency cooperation and coordinated operations of the SWP and CVP. However, the projects vastly differing operating plans and regulatory paths prevented any meaningful progress in implementing CalFed water supply improvements or improving Delta water quality. As a result, CalFed's much needed Conveyance program had been stalled.

Therefore, in July 2003, representatives from the California Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, at the direction of the Bush and Davis Administrations, met with representatives of their contracting agencies to resolve conflicts and determine ways to better operate and integrate their projects, seeking to increase efficiencies, storage opportunities and water supply. Their recently proposed SWP/CVP Integration Plan, also known as the Napa Proposal, is consistent with and enables balanced implementation of the CalFed ROD by making the other elements within the Conveyance program now feasible.

### **Protections For The Environment - Long-Term Environmental Water Account**

An essential goal of the CalFed ROD is to resolve the inherent conflict in improving water supply reliability and providing environmental protections for fish and other wildlife living in the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Therefore, any progress on water supply reliability depends on progress in CalFed's environmental programs.

CalFed established a new national model for conflict resolution with the creation of the innovative Environmental Water Account, which purchased and then provided water into the system when pumps had to be shut down to protect fish. The pilot, four-year Environmental Water Account, has been a success by all accounts but is currently scheduled to expire in 2004.

California's water users are committed to establishing a long-term Environmental Water Account. Advancing CalFed's Conveyance program includes development and implementation of a Long-Term Environmental Water Account, by the federal and state agencies. The Long-Term Environmental Water Account will be available for public comment in Spring 2004.

### **Improving Water Quality – Delta Protections**

All stakeholders agree that local cities and farms in the Delta must be protected from impacts to water quality and water levels as more water is moved through the Delta. Accordingly, a series of regional meetings have been held between local Delta interests and Delta exporters to identify and agree upon a series of improvements and protective measures, including water quality and water level standards, tidal barriers and management of agricultural drainage, that

will be presented to the state and federal governments. If approved, these measures will become part of the conveyance package that moves forward.

### **Delta Improvements Package Needs To Advance**

To date, the most significant progress within CalFed has been ecosystem restoration and other environmentally-focused programs. Likewise, some regional water supply projects such as water recycling and groundwater management have also progressed. Other programs, such as conveyance, water quality and surface storage, have fallen behind schedule.

The Delta Improvements Package is an important step forward for CalFed in advancing a series of projects with statewide benefit from planning to actual implementation. This package is set for approval in 2004 and promises to meet the commitment to balance in Stage 1, making it one of California's most critical water decisions of the year.

### **"California's Water Future" Launched To Support The Delta Improvements Package**

"California's Water Future" is a statewide coalition of water, agricultural, business and labor interests, stretching from Northern California to Southern California, committed to balanced and timely implementation of the CalFed ROD. The coalition not only seeks balanced progress in all programmatic areas of CalFed but also actively lobbies for increased funding from the state and federal government. The coalition views CalFed's Delta Improvements Package as integral and critical for all California interests.

Coalition members include the State Water Contractors, Association of California Water Agencies, Kern County Water Agency, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Westlands Water District, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, the California Business Properties Association, California Chamber of Commerce and the Southern California Water Committee. For more information on CalFed Bay-Delta Program 2004 priorities and California's Water Future, please contact:

Steve Hall  
Association of California Water Agencies  
(916) 441-4545  
[steveh@acwanet.com](mailto:steveh@acwanet.com)

Fiona Hutton  
Red Gate Communications  
(818) 508-1986  
[fhutton@redgatecommunications.com](mailto:fhutton@redgatecommunications.com)

Rex Hime  
California Business Properties Association  
(916) 443-4676  
[rexhime@cbpa.com](mailto:rexhime@cbpa.com)